

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01

AF-06 OPIC-03 OMB-01 SCCT-01 /072 W

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P 281633Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4000

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 4997

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REFC LISBON 4943 DTG 271426Z AUG 75

SUMMARY: LISBON DEMONSTRATION BY COMMUNIST-INSPIRED POPULAR
UNITY FRONT (FUP) DREW LARGE CROWD BUT HAS DONE LITTLE TO
CHANGE BALANCE OF FORCES WHICH NOW FAVORS MELO ANTUNES GROUP.
OCCUPATION OF J-5 FACILITIES, STRIDENCY OF ANTI-GONCALVES
DEMONSTRATION BY SOCIALISTS IN OPORTO AUG 27, AND THE "STOP
OPERATION" MOUNTED IN THE CENTRAL MILITARY REGION SUGGEST "SHOW OF
FORCE" BY ANTI-GONCALVES GROUP. PRESIDENT'S REBUKE TO COMMUNIST-
LINING MEDIA AND HIS FAILURE TO BE MOVED BY FUP DEMONSTRATION
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INDICATE THAT HE IS GETTING THE MESSAGE. SOLIDERS OF MILITARY

POLICE REGIMENT VOTED AUGUST 26 TO REFUSE SERVICE IN ANGOLA.
COSTA GOMES MET WITH CUNHAL AUG 27. VIOLENCE AGAINST THE LEFT
CONTINUES. END SUMMARY

1. POPULAR FRONT DEMONSTRATION: THE POPULAR UNITY FRONT (FUP)
FORMED AUG 25 TO COORDINATE THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PCP AND SIX
OTHER FELLOW-TRAVELLING AND FAR LEFT GROUPS, SPONSORED A LARGE
DEMONSTRATION IN LISBON AUG 27. APPROXIMATELY 40,000
ATTENDED, AMONG THEM A SMALL NUMBER OF UNIFORMED MILITARY.
DEMONSTRATION THEMES INCLUDED THE DETERMINATION TO FIGHT
"AGAINST FASCISM, SOCIAL DEMOCRACY, AND IMPERIALISM" AND THE
RESOLVE TO "DO ALL TO ADVANCE THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS."
IN ADDITION TO POPULAR FRONT SPOKESMAN, BOTH VASCO GONCALVES,
AND COSTA GOMES ADDRESSED CROWD AT BELEM PALACE.
--GONCALVES SPEECH: PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT CURRENT
PERIOD "WAS CRUCIAL FOR REVOLUTINARY PROCESS DUE TO CON-
CERTED ACTIVITY BY DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN ENEMIE" AND, AS HE DID
IN HIS AUGUST 19 ADDRESS AT ALMADA, COMPARED THE SITUATION
TO PRE-NAZI ERE IN GERMANY. HE STATED CENTRAL PROBLEM
ONE OF WHO WILL WIELD THE POWER. PRESENT STRUGGLE FOR POWR
NOTHING MORE THAN A FORM OF CLASS WARFARE: WORKERS' VICTORY MUST
BE SNARED. GONCALVES STATED THAT COPCON AND FIFTH
PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS ARE SUFFICIENT TO GUIDE COUNTRY
TO SOCIALISM. HE EXHORTED CROWD NOT TO LOOK FOR ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTS, BUT TO REMAIN UNITED AND VIGILANT.

--COSTA GOMES SPEECH: PRESIDENT FOLLOWED GONCALVES WITH A
CAREFULLY-WORDED MODERATE SPEECH WHICH PROMPTED GROANS,
WHISTLES, AND ANGRY SHOTS FROM THE LEFTIST CROWD. COSTA GOMES SAID
THAT ALL SOCIETIES, TO BE DURABLE, MUST BE BASED
"ON HUMANITY AND LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER". TWICE HE CALLED FOR
INCREASED TOLERANCE, TO THE MANIFEST DISPLEASURE OF AUDIENCE.
HE LAUDED THE POPULAR UNITY FRONT BUT STATED THAT ITS CREATION
WAS ONLY A FIRST STEP IN THE FORMATION OF A NATIONAL PLATFORM
IN WHICH "ALL THE OTHER POLITICAL FORCES ARE INCLUDED."
SPEECH BECAME HALTING TOWARDS THE END AS CATCALLS FROM THE CROWD
PREVENTED PRESIDENT FROM PROCEEDING. HE LEFT THE PLATFORM WITHOUT
CLOSING HIS SPEECH.

2. PS DEMONSTRATION IN OPORTO: ESTIMATED 5,000 PEOPLE TOOK
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PART IN AUGUST 27 DEMONSTRATION IN OPOROT CALLED BY SOCIALISTS
TO PROTEST RETURN OF BRIG. CORVACHO TO COMMAND NORTHERN
MILITARY REGION. CROWD APPROVED BY ACCLAMATION
RESOLUTION ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES AND ARMY CHIEF OF
STAFF FABIAO CALLING FOR COMPLIANCE WITH WILL OF PEOPLE AS
EXPRESSED IN APRIL 25 ELECTIONS AND, SPECIFICALLY, FOR (A)
IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL OF GONCALVES AND FORMATION OF
GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL SALVATION AND (B) PERMANENT SUBSTITUTION

OF CORVACHO. FOLLOWING DEMONSTRATION, CROWD OF SEVERAL HUNDRED GATHERED BEFORE MILITARY REGION HQ AND CHANTED ANTI-CORVACHO AND ANTI-GONCALVES SLOGANS. AMCONSUL OPOROT, ON SCENE, REPORTED THAT DEMONSTRATORS VERBALLY ABUSED TROOPS GUARDING HQ ENTRANCE, CALLING THEM "MURDERERS."

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY.

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P 281633Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4001

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LISBON 4997

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3. MORE ON J-5 OCCUPATION: FORCES OF LEFT CONTINUE TO CRITICIZE AUGUST 27 OCCUPATION OF FACILITIES OF J-5 (PROPAGANDA AND CULTURAL DYNAMIZATION) OF ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF. J-5 OFFICERS ISSUED BITTER COMMUNIQUE SAME DAY DENYING NEED FOR "PROTECTION" BY COPCON AND CHARGING THAT ACTION WENT FAR BEYOND DECISION REACHED REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL TO SUSPEND J-5 ACTIVITIES PENDING REORGANIZATION OF DIVISION. "WHO GAVE THE ORDER," THE ASKED, AND WHY WAS COL. NEVES INVOLVED. J-T STATEMENT ALSO STOOK EXCEPTION TO

INCLUSION OF RECENTLY-RETURNED TROOPS FROM ANGOLA AMONG THOSE
OCCUPYING J-T FACILITIES. IN SIGNED FRONT-PAGE COMMENTARY,
COMMUNIST-LINING "DIARIO DE NOTICAS" ATTACKED COPCON ACTION.
CLOSING OF J-5, "DIARIO" SAID, ASSURED COPCON ITS PLACE
IN HISTORY. "DIARIO" ASSERTED THAT COPCON HAD MOVED AGSINT
J-5 TO COMPENSATE FOR ITS (COPCON'S) OWN INABIITY TO DEAL
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WITH THE WAVE OF REACTIONARY VIOLENCE
OUTSIDE LISBON. HISTORY, CONCLUDED "DIARIO,"
WOULD ABSOLVE J-5.

4. MORE VIOLENCE: LATEST IN SERIES OF PCP OFFICE BURNINGS
OCCURRED IN ESMORIZ, TOWN 12 MILES SOUTHEAST IN OPORTO, WHERE
CROWD REPORTEDLY NUMBERING IN EXCESS OF 700 SACKED INTERIOR
AND BURNED FURNISHINGS OUTSIDE. TWO PERSONS WERE HIT BY SHOT-
GUN BLASTS FIRED BY PCP MEMBER.
OTHER INCIDENTS ON AUGUST 27 INCLUDED:
--RIO MAIRO: RESPONDING TO CALLS BROADCAST OVER COMMUNIST-
DOMINATED NATIONAL RADIO STATION FOR PCP MILITANTS TO GO TO
DEFENSE OF BESIEGED HEADQUARTERS IN NEARBY LEIRIA (REF TEL),
RESIDENTSOF RIO MAIOR HISTILY SET UP ROADBLOCKS AND STOPPED
CARS CONTAINING 19 ARMED PCP MILIANTS. COMMUNISTS (AND ARMS)
WERE TURNED OVER TO REPUBLICAN NATIONAL GUARD. MILITANTS
SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED,B BUT ONLY AFTER TOWNSPEOPLE FORCED MEDIA
REPORTERS TO "REPORT EVENTS ACCURATELY" AS PRICE FOR COMMUNISTS"
LIBERATION.
--MALVEIRA: FIVE ARMED MEN ENTERED RIFLE SHOP DURING
DAYLIGHT HOURS, MEANCING EMPLOYEES, AND MAKING OFF WITH 50
RIFLES: TWO OF INTRUDERS WORE PORTUGUESE ARMY UNIFORMS.
--LISBON: UNEXPLODED BOMB DISCOVERED OUTSIDE PREMISES OF FELLOW-
TRAVELING FSP. BOMB WAS DESCRIBED AS BEING"RELATIVELY POWERFUL."
(COMMENT: VIOLENCE IS MOVING CLOSER TO LISBON.)

5. COSTA GOMES REBUKES PRESS: PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES ISSUED
UNPRECEDENTED REBUKE TO COMMUNIST-LINING LISBON PRESS.
SIGNING IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMED
FORCES, COSTA GOMES ON AUGUST 27 ISSUED STATEMENT WARNING
MEDIA AGAINST CONTINUED INFLAMATORY COVERAGE OF EVENTS. STATEMENT
CITED AS EXAMPLE COVERAGE OF SUPPOSED MEETING BETWEEN
AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI AND THE MELO ANTUNES GROUP AND
AMBASSADOR'S SUBSEQUENT RIP TO THE UNITED STATES. COSTA
GOMES NOTED THAT SUCH IRRESPONSIBLE JOURNALISM WAS
PARTICULARLY INEXCUSABLE COMING AS IT DID FROM MEDIA
WHICH WAS SUPPORTED BY PUBLIC FUNDS. STATEMENT CONCLUDED WITH
WARNING THAT IF PRACTICE CONTINUED APPROPRIATE ACTION WOULD BE
TKAEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLITICAL ACTON PROGRAM APPROVED
BY THE AFM ASSEMBLY. EMBASSY HAD NOT REQUESTED SUCH A
STATEMENT OR EVEN COMPLAINED ABOUT THE ARTICLES IN QUESTION.
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6. COSTA GOMES SEES CUNHAL
PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES HELD MEETING
WITH COMMUNIST LEADER CUNHAL MORNING OF AUGUST 27. NO STATEMENT
WAS ISSUED.

7. MILITARY POLICE REFUSE ANGOLAN SERVICE. TROOPS OF MILITARY
POLICE REGIMENT IN LISBON, MEETING IN GENERAL SESSION, AUGUST 26
VOTED TO REFUSE FURTHER SERVICE IN ANGOLA. STATEMENT APPROVED
BY MEETING STATED THE BEST WAY TO HELP ANGOLAN PEOPLE WAS "TO

MAKE THE REVOLUTION IN PORTUGAL." STATEMENT CITED FUTILITY OF
COLONIAL WARS AND SOLDIER' DETERMINATION TO SERVE INTERESTS OF
"NEITHER AMERICAN INPERIALSM NOR RUSSIAN SOCIAL IMPERIALISM."
SOLDIERS' CMMSSION WAS NAMED TO COORDINATE OPPOSITION TO
FURTHER EMBARKATIONS TO ANGOLA AND TO ORGANIZE RESISTANCE
WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES. (COMMENT: CONDEMNATION OF BOTH
AMERICAN AND RUSSIAN IMPERIALISM STAMP AUTHORS AS FAR LEFT
SUPPORTERS, POSSIBLY UDP. ACTION ITSELF IS ANOTHER INDICATION OF
STEADY DETERORATION OF DISCIPLINE WITHIN ARMED FORCES AS THEY
BECOME MORE AND MORE POLITICIZED. C.O. OF MILITARY POLICE IS MAJ.
TOME, ONE OF DRAFTERS OF RADICAL COPCON DOCUMENT.)

8. OPERATION "STOP." CENTRAL MILITARY REGION SET UP CHECKPOINT
MORNING OF AUGUST 28 ON HIGHWAYS BETWEEN AVEIRO AND COIMBRA.
GNR AND PSP ELEMENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE OPERATION.

9. COMMENT: DESPITE LARGE TURNOUT, POPULAR UNITY FRONT DEMON-
STRATION WAS, FROM POINT OF VIEW OF ITS COMMUNIST-SPONSORS, A
DISAPPOINTMENT. GONCALVES SPEECH, REplete WITH TIRED THEMES AND
FAMILIAR RHETORIC, FAILED TO MOVE CROWD. HUNDREDS LEFT DURING
COURSE OF HIS REMARKS. COSTA GOMES' SPEECH WAS EVEN MORE
DISAPPOINTMENT FROM POINT OF VIEW OF LEFT. CROWD BEGAN TO DISPERSE
EVEN WHILE ABBREVIATED SPEECH WAS STILL IN PROGRESS. WHEN
PRESIDENT LEFT PLATFORM, MOOD OF CRWOD WAS CLEARLY ONE OF
DISSATISFACTION AND ALMOST OF RESIGNATION. NEITHER GONCALVES
NOR COSTA GOMES HAD GIVEN THEM WHAT THEY HAD COME TO HEAR.

10. THE ANTUNES GROUP APPEARS TO BE TAKING NEW AND TOUGHER
LINE TOWARDS GONCALVES AND HIS COMMUNIST ALLIES. FACT THAT
ANTUNES GROUP HAS APPARENTLY GOTTEN AWAY WITH DRAMATIC SHUT DOWN
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OF J-5 WITHOUT STIMULATING SIGNIFCANT COMMUNIST REACTION WILL
ENCOURAGE THEM TO CONTINUE THEIR TOUGH LINE. NOISY AND FORTH-

RIGHT ATTACK ON GONCALVES AND CORVACHO IN OPORTO, AND CHECKPOINTS MOUNTED BY THE CENTRAL MILITARY REGIMENT ALSO SUGGEST MUCH MORE ACTIVE CAMPAIGN ON PART OF GONCALVES OPPONENTS.

11. THE TONE OF STUDIED MODERATION

STRUCK BY PRESIDENT IN HIS REMARKS TO THE POPULAR UNITY FRONT AND THE UNPRECEDENTED REBUKE TO THE COMMUNIST-LINING MEDIA FOR ITS IRRESPONSIBLE HANDLING OF THE BOGUS STORY OF THE AMBASSADOR'S "FLIGHT TO WASHINGTON" INDICATE THAT THE PRESIDENT MAY BE GETTING THE MESSAGE. NEVERTHELESS, IF TODAY'S "DEADLINE" FOR THE DISMISSAL OF GONCALVES PASSES WITH NO ACTION, AS EXPECT IT WILL, IT BECOMES MORE AND MORE LIKELY THAT SHOWDOWN WILL BE BY FORCE RATHER THAN THROUGH POLITICAL MEANS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON04997
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750298-0736
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750810/aaaaaichn.tel
Line Count: 291
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LISBON 4943
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006